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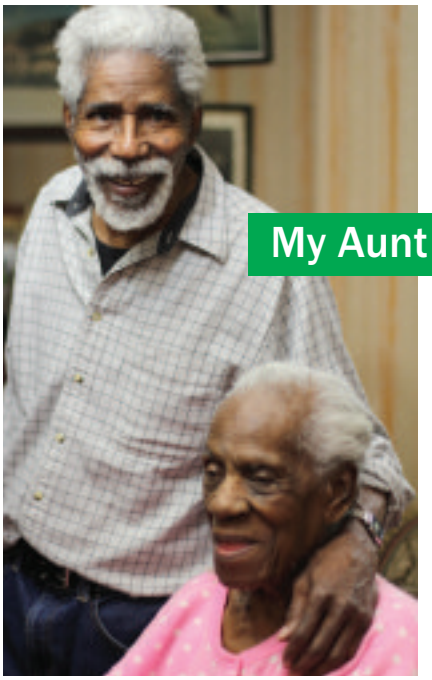

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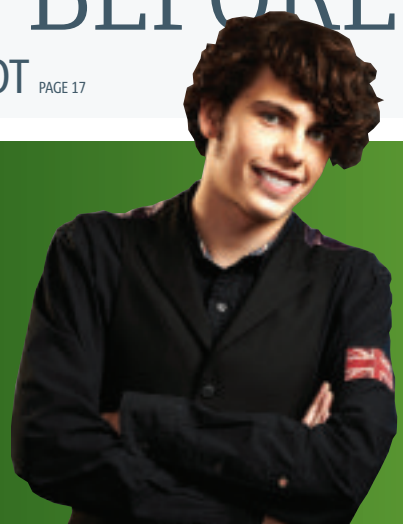
HAVEN'T WE HEARD THAT 'VOICE' BEFORE?

GIVING THEIR SONGS ANOTHER SHOT PAGE 17



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CHRONIC RX

WILL NY FINALLY GET MEDICAL MARIJUANA?

PAGE 02

New York state could be closer than ever to getting medical marijuana if a bill introduced by a Staten Island state senator passes. / GETTY IMAGES

Weighing in on 'Lean In'

Working women discuss what Sheryl Sandberg's advice means to them.
PAGE 23

Dinosaurs vs. curses

Which is scarier? More importantly, which makes more money at the box office? PAGE 18

Weiner: 'Mad' about you

"Mad Men" creator doesn't like what you blog about Don Draper.
PAGE 19

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NEWS

In the news

Cuomo names Judge

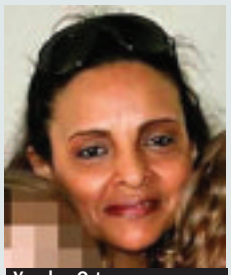
In a move that could place the first black woman on the bench of the state's highest court, Governor Andrew Cuomo has nominated Sheila Abdus-Salaam to the Court of Appeals. Abdus-Salaam has served as a judge in Manhattan Supreme Court for 14 years.

Quoted

"It's exactly the opposite of what we want in New York."

STATE SENATOR DIANE SAVINO, ON CALIFORNIA'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA LAW

Horrific crime



Yoselyn Ortega / FACEBOOK

Nanny accused of murder, fit for trial

The nanny accused of killing two children in her care on the Upper West Side was announced mentally fit to stand trial on April 5. The Manhattan Supreme Court judge in the case said in court that Yoselyn Ortega was ruled able to proceed to a trial in the murder case, according to news reports. Ortega is accused of killing Leo and Lucia Krim in October in a case that shocked the city.

ALISON BOWEN

Seal and sea lions

NY Aquarium will reopen in May

After Hurricane Sandy wrecked the New York Aquarium by sending ocean water into the animals' habitats, the Aquarium will partially reopen in May.

Aquarium officials announced the reopening today, promising a new sea lion exhibit and the return of animals like seals and sea otters.

The 14-acre campus was severely damaged, from building structures to exhibits.

But starting May 25, visitors will be able to see sea lions and other animals.

Animals that will be welcoming visitors include walrus, sea lions, harbor seals, sea otters and penguins.

The Aquarium also has a remodeled Aquatheater now for sea lion demonstrations.

ALISON BOWEN

After a couple of failed attempts, New York looks like it might pass a medical marijuana bill. / DAVID MCNEW, GETTY IMAGES

NY inches closer to medical marijuana

Cure for pain. A Staten Island senator says that the time to pass her bill is now.

State Senator Diane Savino recently introduced a bill in the senate that would legalize medical marijuana in New York. As one of five democrats in a power-sharing coalition with republicans, the bill is looking likelier than ever to pass the senate and head to the governor's office.

Savino said the New York bill would be the most regulated marijuana statute in the country.

"California is the worst model, there it's like the Wild West, literally," she said.

The way Savino describes it, legalizing marijuana could even be profitable for the state.

"We want to license it, we want to tax it, we want to derive a significant amount of revenue from it," she said.

Savino said there would be a licensing fee imposed upon growers and dispensers, as well as an excise tax that has yet to be determined.

She said that public opinion is a factor in how restrictive the criteria in the bill is.

"Unfortunately, the public is a little leery about what this substance could be used for, so we have to proceed a little bit carefully," she explained.

But the senator said she knows this legislation is vitally important to many New Yorkers because she get letters and phone calls not just from her own constituents, but from "people all over the state living in pain who, if they just lived across one of the three bridges that connect us to New Jersey, would have that option [to use medical marijuana]."

The senator hopes to have a vote on the bill before the end of the legislative session.

DANIELLE TCHLOAKIAN
danielle.tchloakian@metro.us

Medical view. Doctor: Medical marijuana could be treatment

Dr. Craig Blinderman, a palliative care specialist at New York Presbyterian Hospital, is intrigued by the potential medical marijuana holds for treating pain.

"There's a lot of research that suggests that cannabis has benefits in patients with chronic pain, no appetite [and] nausea," he said.

If medical marijuana were legal, Blinderman said he would consider recommending it for patients with pain, nausea and appetite problems.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

All views are those of Dr. Blinderman and do not reflect NY Presbyterian Hospital.

Pain management

Vet uses marijuana for PTSD

Rob is a Navy veteran who lives in Woodstock, N.Y. In 1986, he was on a Navy ship off of Libya, pulling water mines out of the Gulf.

After the war he started using marijuana to treat Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

It was first suggested to him by a Veterans Affairs doctor at the end of an appointment, who started by saying, "Now I want to talk to you frankly."

Cannabis has helped him "tremendously," Rob said, with his anger issues, anxiety, sleeping disorder and "just generally not being able to concentrate."

Once he started using marijuana, Rob was able to get a job "and progress my life."

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New bill goes after knockoff bags

No labels. Chin's bill would impose fines on those who buy the goods.

Buyer beware!

City councilwoman Margaret Chin wants to crack down not just on the people that are hawking knockoff designer handbags across New York City, but also on the people that are buying them.

Chin's new bill seeks to cut down on the trade in counterfeit goods — an industry that has historically thrived in Manhattan's Chinatown neighborhood and in parts of SoHo and Tribeca — by going after the label-hungry buyers driving demand.

Tourists and the others who buy the illegal labels could face a fine of up to $1,000 and up to a year in prison.

"People are worried that some innocent middle-aged woman might unwittingly purchase a [counterfeit] bag," Chin told the NY Post. "If you go into a back room, basement or van, you probably know what you're doing is not legal."

Three hundred and forty million dollars' worth of black-market handbags were seized last year alone in New York.

EMILY JOHNSON
letters@metro.us

Seized knockoff goods copy designer labels.
PASCAL LE SEGRETAIN, GETTY IMAGES

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Bar fight

Man dies after brawl over bill

An argument at a Brooklyn restaurant on Saturday turned ugly when one man bled to death after falling on broken glass, police said.

Miguel Jimenez and a friend were thrown out of La Cabana when they began fighting over the check, police said.

During the fight, Jimenez landed on a broken bottle.

EMILY JOHNSON

Hate crime

Man strikes woman with glass bottle

Police are searching for a man who struck a woman in the face with a ketchup bottle at a West Village diner, cops said.

The man approached the victim, 33, inside Waverly Diner at 4:40 a.m. on April 1. He made anti-gay statements and hit her, causing a laceration, police said.

LAURA SHIN

Craft beer and a kiss at the Lexington Armory

A Spring Seasonals edition of the NYC Craft Beer festival took place on March 30 at the Lexington Armory. It featured 75 American Craft Breweries and 150 craft beers at the grand tasting. / PAUL LACHENAUER

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If you live in a Hurricane Sandy affected ZIP code, you can get free help preparing Federal Form 4684 Casualties and Theft to claim a loss for Tax Year 2012.

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- All types of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement documentation, if applicable
- Any contractor estimates and repairs or replacement costs to damaged property
- Copies of your federal tax returns for the last three years, if available

Visit **nyc.gov** and search "tax prep" to get *Quick Tips for Tax Filers Affected by Hurricane Sandy* and other resources.

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Scottish pride was on full display at the New York Tartan Day parade on April 6 on Sixth Avenue in midtown Manhattan. Pipe bands, individual bagpipe players and bands all took part in the festivities.

PAUL LACHENAUER

Great Scots!

1 Playing the bagpipes

A bagpipe band marches down Sixth Avenue for Tartan Day.

2 Tartan pride

Things are about to get heavy at the Tartan Day parade. The event commemorates the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, which asserted Scottish sovereignty and was an influence on the Declaration of Independence.

3 Flag waving, Scottish-style

Some revelers show off their Scottish pride and sunglasses during the annual Tartan Pride in New York City. The parade has been a tradition since 1998.

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The app, Teens in NYC Protection +, is available via iTunes. / CITY OF NEW YORK

App for teens focuses on birth control, clinics

An app for that.
A new app aims to provide teens with information about clinics and sexual health services at the tap of a finger.

A Department of Health and Mental Hygiene app that gives teens information about sexual health services is getting little promotion, after recent backlash from the city's teen pregnancy ads.

Ads hurtful

"I still am extremely disappointed about the ads and ... the messaging of stereotyping ... current teen parents." PALMA

"The app is a great step forward, and I commend the administration," said Councilwoman Anabel Palma said.

Palma praised the app as proactive, saying that "scare tactics don't get teens to correct their behavior, education does."

The app has a clinic search engine, birth control information and a reminder that a condom and birth control must be used to be effective.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
danielle.tcholakian@metro.us

Watch your fedora

No tip of the hat for thieves

Cops are looking for two people who robbed a hat store in Brooklyn.

According to police, the men entered Hood Wear Cap City on Flatbush Avenue on 9 p.m., April 4.

One showed a gun and demanded the owner hand over all the money, while the second emptied the register.

Anyone with information should call 800-577-TIPS.

ALISON BOWEN

Vaccination. West Village eatery sparks a Hepatitis A scare

Health officials are urging vaccinations for up to 450 people who ate at a West Village restaurant staffed by a pastry chef with Hepatitis A.

The chef at Alta on W. 10th Street picked up the virus while in Mexico, DNAinfo reported.

Any diner who consumed dessert at Alta from March 23 to April 2 should get vaccinated, Health Commissioner Thomas Farley said.

EMILY JOHNSON

Diners should get a vaccine.
METRO FILE PHOTO

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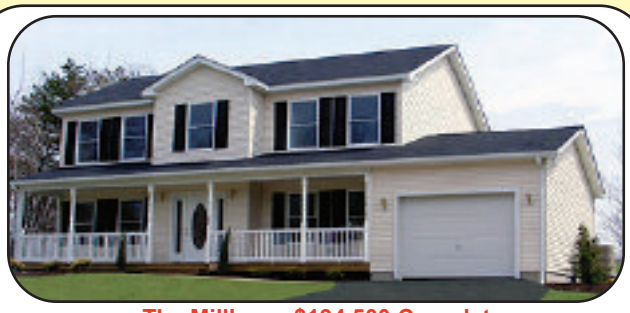

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A B-52 bomber flies over Osan on March 19, 2013, as part of joint U.S. and S. Korea drills. / GETTY IMAGES

China warns of 'troublemaking' on Korean peninsula

High tensions. China has shown growing irritation with Pyongyang's warnings of war.

China warned against "troublemaking" on its doorstep, in an apparent rebuke to North Korea, and the United States said it was postponing a missile test to help calm tension on the Korean peninsula.

The North has been issuing vitriolic threats of war against the United States and U.S.-backed South Korea since the United Nations imposed sanctions in response to its third nuclear weapon test in February.

Pyongyang's anger appears heightened by U.S.-South Korean joint military exercises. But most analysts say it has no intention of starting a conflict that would bring its own destruction and instead is out to wring concessions from a nervous international community.

The North told diplomats late last week to consider leaving Pyongyang because of the tension, but embassies appeared to view the appeal as more rhetoric and staff have stayed put.

Quoted

"We oppose provocative words and actions from any party in the region and do not allow troublemaking on China's doorstep."
Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

South Korea said it was ready for any kind of action that the North's unpredictable leaders might make — including a possible missile launch — by Wednesday, after which the North said it could not guarantee diplomats' safety. REUTERS

Peace offer

Swiss offer to mediate in N. Korea crisis

Switzerland has offered to mediate with North Korea as tension rises on the Korean peninsula.

The Swiss foreign ministry recently made contact with the North Korean authorities, but there are no current plans for any talks, a spokeswoman said. REUTERS

Crisis. US lawmakers say China has failed to rein in N. Korea

China has failed to use its influence to stop North Korea's warlike rhetoric U.S. lawmakers said yesterday.

Republican Senator John McCain criticized China's "failure to rein in what could be a catastrophic situation," saying Beijing could step up pressure on Pyongyang by using its influence over North Korea's economy. REUTERS

John McCain / GETTY IMAGES

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The condition and rarity of an item determines its price. If an item is in excellent condition and very rare it might be worth the up to price, or even more. However, if an item is in poor condition, the value will be lower. For example, a 1927 S Quarter could be worth $7,000 in new condition or less than $20 in poor condition. The up to price reflects items of exceptional quality and rarity. Although it is unlikely you will have these items due to their extreme rarity, feel free to bring whatever items you may have and we will evaluate them free of charge.

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Cocktails Rings	Up To	$15,000	Art Nouveau	Up To	$12,500
Charm Bracelets	Up To	$5,500	Lavalieres	Up To	$8,000
Earrings	Up To	$10,500	Garnets Jewelry	Up To	$1,000
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Cameos	Up To	$750	Floral Design	Up To	$10,500
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5 Carats	Up To	$65,000
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Politics. GOP senator sees Obama budget offer as positive

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham became the first prominent Republican to publicly praise, however lukewarm, the budget proposal the White House outlined last week.

Graham said that while he believes President Barack Obama's plan is overall bad for the economy, "there are nuggets of his budget that I think are optimistic."

Graham, a conservative who has deviated from party positions in the past, has said he would consider raising up to $600 billion in new tax revenue if Democrats accept significant changes to Medicare, the government health program for elderly Americans, and Medicaid, the health safety net for low-income people. REUTERS

Middle East peace

Kerry urges Turkey, Israel to reconcile

Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday urged Turkey and Israel to restore full relations, calling it vital to regional stability, but said it was not up to Washington to dictate the conditions of rapprochement.

An Israeli-Turkish reconciliation could improve regional coordination to contain spillover from the Syrian civil war and ease Israel's diplomatic isolation in the Middle East. REUTERS

Immigration bill expected this week

GOP. A bipartisan group from the Republican-led House of Representatives is working on its own version of immigration reform.

People participate in a protest that organizers said was an attempt to get the U.S. Congress to say yes to immigration reform. / GETTY IMAGES

A bill to overhaul the immigration system would likely be completed by the end of this week, two senior senators said yesterday.

Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer of New York said that senators in the bipartisan "Group of Eight" have resolved all major issues in a pending deal and that their staffs are putting the bill into legislative language.

"All of us have said that they'll be no deal until the eight of us agree to a big, specific bill, but hopefully we can get that done by the end of the week," he said yesterday on CBS's "Face the Nation" program.

"There have been kerfuffles along the way, but each one of those thus far has been settled," said Schumer, a member of the group, which has four Democrats and four Republicans.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the biggest U.S. business group, and the AFL-CIO, the largest labor federation, reached an elusive agreement on a guest-worker program late last month, clearing the way for the writing of a full bill. REUTERS

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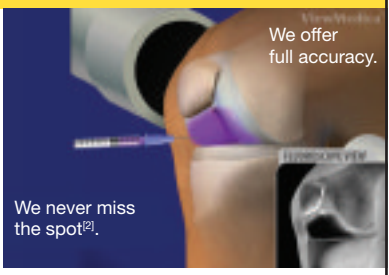

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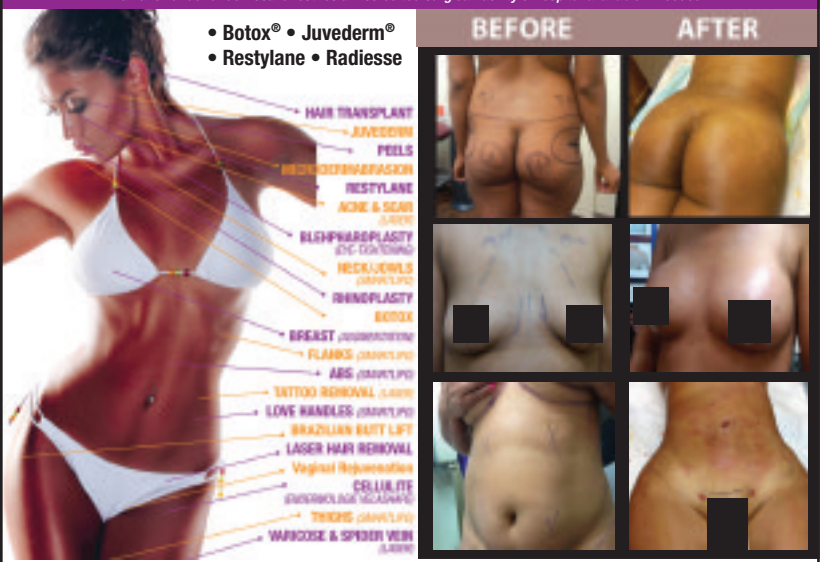

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Goodwill. Battle erupts in California over donation boxes

A political fight over charity collection boxes is brewing in California, where property owners complain that the boxes are sometimes dropped on to their land without permission, becoming magnets for graffiti and shelter for transients.

Goodwill Industries International, the most established of such U.S. charities, has pushed for years for regulation of donation boxes, and a California state senator has taken up the cause with a bill that would make it easier for property owners to have unauthorized boxes towed away.

State and local governments elsewhere in the United States — including Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Arizona and North Carolina — have also stepped in to try to regulate the boxes.

Americans plop tens of millions of dollars worth of used clothing into the boxes each year, creating big revenue streams for charities and for-profit companies alike.

The regulatory battle over the boxes, now in its fifth year in California, exposes the high stakes in the competitive world of charity fund-raising.

Goodwill executives worry that messy, untended boxes, sometimes owned by companies that are not affiliated with charities at all, give legitimate clothing collectors a bad name. **REUTERS**

A Goodwill donation box
WIKIPEDIA

Red meat's other hidden heart perils

Previous research has shown that high levels of meat-eating are linked to cardiovascular risk, due in part to the saturated fats and cholesterol in meat. / GETTY IMAGES

Health. Carnitine is also found in fish, poultry, wheat and some vegetables.

The fat and cholesterol found in a steak may not be the only components bad for the heart, according to researchers who have found another substance in red meat that can clog the arteries.

The substance is called carnitine. As bacteria in the gut breaks it down, it turns into compound known to harden arteries, according to a study published yesterday in Nature Medicine.

What's more, people who eat a lot of meat allow more of the bacteria that convert carnitine to the harmful compound to grow, increasing its effect. Previous research has shown that high levels of meat-eating are linked to cardiovascular risk, due in part to the saturated fats and cholesterol in meat. However, the higher levels of these ingredients aren't enough to explain the difference in heart disease between meat-eaters and vegans or vegetarians.

The study may begin to explain the difference. **BLOOMBERG**

Quoted

"The bacteria living in our digestive tracts are dictated by our long-term dietary patterns."
Study author Stanley Hazen

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Teach a kid to fish: Biology bait and lure

A Discover Outdoors student group poses for a photo after traveling to the Adirondacks. / PROVIDED

Education. A tour company launches a nonprofit geared toward getting city kids outside.

Living in the city's concrete sprawl, it's easy to forget that craggy rocks and whispering forests are just beyond the city's boundaries. For Kirk Reynolds, his love of the outdoors inspired him to found Discover Outdoors, a company that gets city-dwellers into the wild. This month the company launched a nonprofit wing that lets low-income students at NYC schools get their hands dirty while doing lessons on geology, biology and earth sciences — free of charge.

Tell us how your nonprofit works.
At the most basic level, we work with the Hudson River Park Trust, a public organization funded by the city. We teach them how to fish right in the Hudson River. With that trip, we take up to 50 students — but some programs we can take hundreds of students. During the lesson, we keep one of the fish that we catch and then we dissect it. The teachers and the guides do a biology lesson right on the spot.

How do you fit in the real learning?
Before we take the kids out, we have a number of meetings with administrators and teachers. The teachers are the ones who do the lessons, so we ask them what their objectives are to help facilitate that class in an outdoor setting. The kids range from ages 12 to 18, so there is a lot of leeway on the lesson plans.

What is the goal of the organization?
The response has been overwhelming. The ultimate goal is increasing graduation rates and offering more classes through experiences in the outdoors. We hope the inspiration for students will ultimately affect graduation rates, which are too low at 60 percent. The follow-through is that we've created a scholarship program that we're hoping will help students through graduation.

JULIA FURLAN
julia.furlan@metro.us

Students raft the Indian River in the Adirondacks. "Jump rock" is a big hit. / PROVIDED

What is "geocoaching"?

Geocoaching is essentially a treasure hunt where little objects are hidden and students have to use a map and compass to find them. It could be a snack, a toy or a gift, but they have to find it using their skills. It's a lot of fun.

Kirk Reynolds is the founder of Discover Outdoors. / PROVIDED

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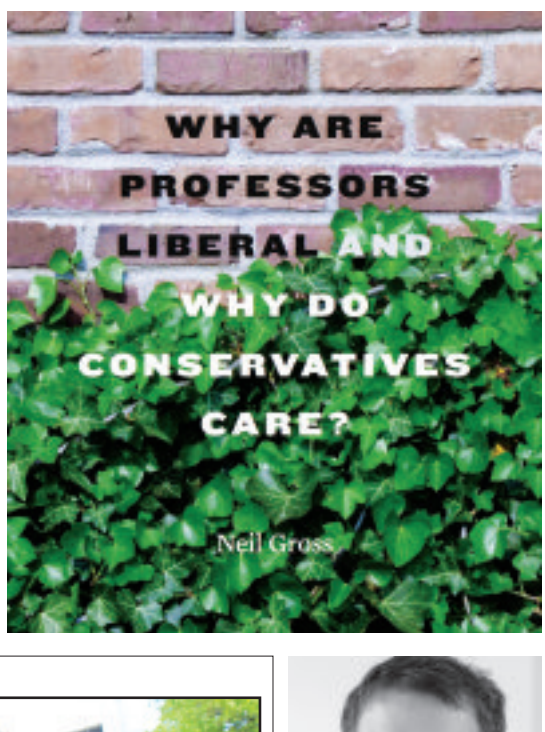
Politics at the college podium



Neil Gross / CONTRIBUTED

Education. Professor Neil Gross looks at the political side of higher education in his book.

In 2005 Neil Gross was teaching at Harvard University when then-president Larry Summers made controversial remarks regarding the intellectual ability of women in STEM fields. The debate that followed inspired his latest book, "Why Are Professors So Liberal, and Why Do Conservatives Care?"

"Outside the academy, conservatives felt that the hullabaloo was evidence that liberal political correctness reigned," says Gross. "I wanted to know if this was really true. Are professors really liberal?"

The short answer, he found, was yes. After combing through the most reliable data, college professors did tend to be slightly more left-leaning than the general public. The reasons why proved to be far more complicated.

In interviews with both liberal and conservative faculty, Gross discovered self-serving explanations on both sides of the aisle.

"On the left, you hear professors saying that conservatives are more interested in making money, so that leads them away from academia ... But the research I cite is pretty clear that, actually, students that are most interested in money have very little political leaning one way or the other," explains Gross.

For a deeper understanding, he offers the development of the secular university in the 19th and 20th centuries and the reformist tradition that gained steam alongside it. (Yes, it's complicated.) At the end of this journey, Gross realizes the answer to this riddle is not nearly as important as debunking the perceptions surrounding it. "I think we need to have more forums on campus where students and faculty are encouraged to discuss politics across party lines."

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The buddy system: A strategy for getting along

After more than three years of discussions — and plenty of cross-disciplinary bonding — the group developed strategies for fostering better relationships, which led to a new guidebook for campuses that want to give it a try: "Transformative Conversations: A Guide to Mentoring Communities in Higher Education."

The process, "formation mentoring," is a detailed system that encourages professors to meet in small groups and support each other in becoming better teachers and learners.

"We want to take an interest in the whole person — not just our intellectual life, but our moral life, our emotional life, our spiritual life. All of this is part of who we are, and wouldn't it be nice if there was a setting where we could bring that to the table?" says Aaron Kheriaty, one of four authors of the guidebook and a professor at University of California, Irvine. "We're trying to create a space to talk about our hopes, doubts and mistakes — all the things you usually don't put out there in a faculty meeting where everyone's got their peacock feathers flying."

"Our primary focus is to give people a way to help make their professional lives better. We hope that by creating these groups, we will have an effect on the institution," says Kheriaty. BRUCE WALSH

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2

CULTURE

Twitter feed

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Jason Mraz may not have the firmest grasp on the concept of reincarnation and Ewan McGregor is taking a bath outdoors in Australia.

@jason_mraz: My phone's about to die. I hope it comes back as a taco.

@mcgregor_ewan: Outside Bath at @ElQuestro Homestead. Had to do a paparazzi sweep of the rocks first!

Jonathan Knight walks off stage during concert

Jonathan Knight, one-fifth of the New Kids of the Block, apologized to fans after walking off the stage from his group's concert on Thursday in New York City after being overcome with anxiety, Us Weekly reports. The New Kid, who once told Oprah Winfrey that he suffered from panic attacks when NKOTB took off, appeared pretty uncomfortable right from the get-go of the show, lying low while the rest of the guys jumped around and reportedly checking his phone mid-set. When it was time for him to sing a solo, he left the stage. The group soldiered on without him, and Knight apologized to fans via Twitter. The next day, the group tweeted that "all is well" with Knight.

Sorry, you're not wanted

Former "Jersey Shore" housemate Angelina "Trash Bags" Pivarnick, has been rejected again — this time, by the WWE, who wouldn't grant her tickets to Wrestlemania 29 this weekend. TMZ reports that the Staten Island Dump tried calling every WWE employee she could and even played up the fact she used to wrestle. WWE sources say that they were "unable to accommodate her request due to overwhelming demand for tickets," which is BS publicist speak for "no one wants you there."

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THE WORD

Meredith Engel's take on the world of gossip

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AJ McLean shows off hair transplant

In other '90s boy-band news, Backstreet Boy AJ McLean took to Instagram on Saturday to show off a newly full head of hair. And he wasn't shy about how it happened: "Some girls get there [sic] boobs done some guys get abb [sic] implants all to make them happy! This was the one thing I did and I couldn't be happier thank u dr G!!!!"

Here's hoping McLean didn't bring a picture of Jon Gosselin's hair plugs to the appointment and tell Dr. G., "I want it that way."

Halle Berry preggo again

Halle Berry and fiance Olivier Martinez are expecting a visit from the stork come fall, her rep confirmed to People magazine on Friday. This will be the second child for Berry, who already has a 5-year-old daughter, Nahla, with ex Gabriel Aubry. Aubry was ordered to stay 100 yards away from Berry, Nahla and Martinez after a Thanksgiving brawl that got him arrested, so it looks like Berry is totally kicking ass in this battle of the exes.

Dr. Phil not shilling for Arias family

Dr. Phil McGraw, who helps families sort through drama like "My husband is a fugitive, but I love him" on his talk show, says there is one case he's keeping his distance from: the Jodi Arias murder trial. Rumors swirled on Saturday that the TV doc was paying for the Arias' family housing during her trial for the murder of her boyfriend. But Dr. Phil was quick to defend himself on Twitter, calling the allegations "absolutely untrue."

More than one 'Voice' from the past

Garrett Gardner
NBC/NBCU PHOTO BANK

Holly Tucker
NBC/NBCU PHOTO BANK

Taylor Beckham
NBC/NBCU PHOTO BANK

Television. While there are plenty of new faces on the NBC singing show, there are a few familiar ones as well.

Keeping up with the many seasons of various singing competitions is a tall task (you have to commit two nights of your TV-watching week, and once you find a contestant to root for, he or she could be gone the next week) — but when "The Voice" came back late last month for its fourth season, there were a few familiar faces along with the new ones.

Veteran judges Adam Levine and Blake Shelton welcomed newbies Shakira and Usher to the judges table, but there was also a mix of old and new amongst the contestants during the premiere's blind auditions.

Contestant Garrett Gardner says he didn't let previous seasons' disappointment stand in the way of auditioning again.

"I took into account what, in particular, Blake had told me — because he was really the one who gave me some really harsh but much-needed constructive criticism," says the 17-year-old singer, who wowed Shakira enough with his version of the White Stripes' "Seven Nation Army" to make it onto her team.

Holly Tucker is also no stranger to "The Voice." The Texan, who made it onto Blake's team, auditioned for Season 1 of the competition.

Tucker says she values that the judges couldn't see her while she sang.

"I've been judged in the past, and it's something that you just have to get a thick skin and learn to deal with — which is what I think I've done over the past years," she says.

MARY ANN GEORGANTOPOULOS
maryann.georgantopoulos@metro.us

Why not 'Idol'?

'The best option'

"I auditioned for 'American Idol,' and they're actually the reason I auditioned for 'The Voice,'" Gardner says.

Taylor Beckham, who made it on Team Usher, says, "I just really believed in 'The Voice.' … I thought it was the best option for me."

Quoted

"I've been judged in the past, and it's something that you just have to get a thick skin and learn to deal with — which is what I think I've done over the past years."

Holly Tucker
Contestant on "The Voice"

Embarrassment of riches at Tisch

About to graduate from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, members of the Second Avenue Dance Company have honed their chops and are ready for prime time. This weekend they're showing works by local luminaries and several classmates.

For the most part, the big new pieces are overdressed and under-lit, and have sound scores generated by machinery. The gray and black outfits by Ari Fulton and Brooke Cohen are attractive and ingenious, but their sheer profusion of design ideas distracts from the dances' gestural sequences.

Both men and women wear Martin Pakledinaz's long, tubular skirts in "Pacific," a pointe piece with overtones of religious ritual. To live music, the dancers bob and bow. The 1995 work looks rather stilted.

The most satisfying dance on the bill turns out to be MFA candidate Shannon Gillen's sharp, clear quartet, "Deep Sequencing."

ELIZABETH ZIMMER
letters@metro.us

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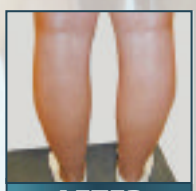
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‘Evil Dead’ killed the 3-D dinosaurs

Box office. This weekend, a remake of a 1981 horror classic outgrossed a re-release of a 1993 blockbuster.

Lou Taylor Pucci very stupidly reads from a book made of human skin in “Evil Dead.” / KIRSTY GRIFFIN

“Evil Dead,” the blood-drenched remake of the 1981 horror classic “The Evil Dead,” scared up $26 million in its first weekend to win the box office race, slashing past another familiar story, the 3-D re-release of Steven Spielberg’s 1993 dinosaur blockbuster “Jurassic Park.”

The supernatural story of five 20-something friends who battle demons in a remote cabin, “Evil Dead” far surpassed industry projections of about $20 million for the film following a strong $1.8 million in midnight showings on Thursday.

Last weekend’s box office leader, “G.I. Joe: Retaliation,” fought its way into a virtual tie with animated Stone Age comedy “The Croods,” now in its third week in theaters, with each taking in $21.1 million, according to estimates from Hollywood.com’s box office division.

The 3-D “Jurassic Park” re-release was fourth with $18.2 million in ticket sales, and “Olympus Has Fallen” rounded out the Top 5 with sales of slightly more than $10 million, squeaking past “Tyler Perry’s Temptation”, which came in sixth at $10 million. **REUTERS**

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TV watch list

“Monday Mornings”
DOUG HYUN

REALITY

‘Alien Mysteries’

Is it ethical to categorize a show that centers on alien mysteries as ‘reality’ programming? We think not.
10 P.M., DA

DRAMA

‘Being Human’

It is nice to have as many vampire-related distractions as possible until “Twilight” is resuscitated. Couldn’t reality TV stars just take up neck-biting? **9 P.M., SYFY**

DRAMA

‘Monday Mornings’

Catch the season wrap of another interchangeable medical drama, this one with Ving Rhames.
SEASON FINALE, 10 P.M., TNT
NATALIE SHURE

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Matthew Weiner knows what you're saying about 'Mad Men'

TV. The "Mad Men" creator takes Internet reactions to his show so seriously he's banned from reading them.

A word of caution to angry Internet commenters and recappers: "Mad Men" creator Matthew Weiner knows what you're writing about his show. Or at least he used to until he was banned from visiting blogs and sites by his wife and writing staff.

"This is a terrible job for someone as oversensitive as I am. When I was on 'The Sopranos,' [blogs] didn't even exist," Weiner says. "I try and stay away from it. What usually happens now is somebody — a friend — will send me something. And it's still this addiction."

As an example, he offers an episode from last season, "Signal 30," that garnered some reactions he didn't appreciate. "It was Vincent [Kartheiser]'s performance, you know, when he's in the elevator and says, 'We're supposed to be friends. I have nothing,'" Weiner remembers. "That to me is like the saddest thing I ever wrote. I was very emotional about it, and when it aired people are like, 'A Pete story. I hate that.' So I just try and stay away from that stuff as much as possible."

Hence the banning. And he's been good for the most part, but he did slip up a few times last season. "I really was off it for a while, and then [the Season 4 episode] 'The Suitcase' happened and everyone was like, 'You have to read what people said about this thing,'" he says. "So I read it and I loved that episode, but the episode that was on the week after that was actually my favorite of the season, 'The Summer Man.' It's a very emotional story for me. So of course I read [the reactions] the next week and it's, like, brutal. The immediate response is, you know, hatred, anger, disgust, betrayal. And I kind of am like, I can't believe I let these strangers hurt me."

NED EHRBAR
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"Mad Men" creator Matthew Weiner reads your Internet commentary — sometimes. / MICHAEL YARISH/AMC

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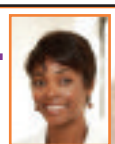
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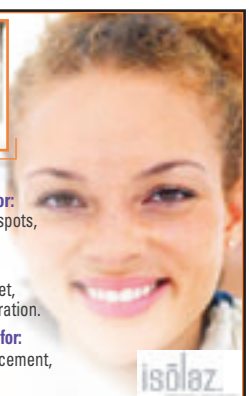
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Staying in the moment can help you break a vice keeping you from your best. / GETTY IMAGES, WAVEBREAK MEDIA

DITCH THE HABITS THAT HOLD YOU BACK

I've given up many bad habits, and most recently I got off coffee. Letting go of coffee was not easy. In fact, strange as it may sound, it was even harder than when I got sober eight years ago and gave up drugs and alcohol. Caffeine was my last drug, and because it wasn't killing me I continued to give myself permission to drink it.

One of the reasons we stay stuck in habits is because of our permission-giving thoughts, like "One cup of coffee a day won't kill me" or "I only drink on weekends." These thoughts keep us convinced that there is nothing wrong with our behavior, even though deep down we know it isn't right.

We often use our bad habits to avoid dealing with something more difficult. In my case, I was using coffee as a final vice. As a sober woman, I felt I deserved to have something I could turn to when I needed a jolt. It seemed harmless, but when I got honest with myself it became clear that I was just using the coffee as another drug. I realized I needed to stop giving myself permission to drink it.

Breaking a bad habit can be really uncomfortable at first. To help you ease into the process, I've outlined the three steps that worked for me.

Step 1: Keep it in the day

When I was first letting go of coffee, I'd project onto the future with thoughts like, "What will I do when I'm in Europe and I want a cappuccino?" What helped me most during these future flip-outs was to keep it in the day. I would tell myself, "I don't need to worry about tomorrow. Today I choose not to drink coffee." One day at a time, I've stayed committed.

Step 2: Change your breath pattern

Whenever you notice yourself about to relapse, take a long, deep breath. As you change your breath, you change your energy. Your calm and centered energy will support you in positive behavior.

Step 3: Make it joyful

To really change, we need more than just willpower: We must find the joy and curiosity in it. Letting go of a bad habit is really just creating a new habit. In it, you can find happiness. In my case, I chose not to dwell on the loss of coffee, and instead I fell in love with tea.

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Magic mushroom depression trial stalls

Drugs. Legality laws hold up what would be the first study of its kind.

The world's first clinical trial designed to explore using a hallucinogen from magic mushrooms to treat people with depression has stalled because of British and European rules on the use of illegal drugs in research.

David Nutt, president of the British Neuroscience Association and professor of neuropsychopharmacology at Imperial College London, said he had been granted an ethical green light and funding for the trial, but regulations were blocking it. He has previously conducted small experiments finding that psilocybin, the psychedelic ingredient in magic mushrooms, has the potential to alleviate severe forms of depression in people who don't respond to other treatments.

Following these promising early results he was awarded a $844,000 grant from the U.K.'s Medical Research Council to conduct a full clinical trial in patients.

But psilocybin is illegal in Britain, and under the United Nations 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances it is classified as a Schedule 1 drug — one that has a high potential for abuse and no recognized medical use.

This, Nutt explained, means scientists need a special license to use magic mushrooms for trials in Britain, and the manufacture of a synthetic form of psilocybin for use in patients is tightly controlled by European Union regulations. He has so far been unable to find a company to make and supply the drug for his trial.

Nutt said regulatory authorities have a "primitive, old-fashioned attitude that Schedule 1 drugs could never have therapeutic potential," despite research to the contrary.

Psilocybin — or "magic" — mushrooms grow naturally around the world and have been widely used since ancient times for religious rites and for recreation. REUTERS

Quoted

"Finding companies who could manufacture the drug and who are prepared to go through the regulatory hoops to get the license, which can take up to a year and triple the price, is proving very difficult."

David Nutt
President of the British Neuroscience Association and professor of neuropsychopharmacology at Imperial College London

"We live in a world of insanity in terms of regulating drugs," Nutt told a neuroscience conference in London. / GETTY IMAGES, BRAND X

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Horoscope

♈ Aries | March 21 - April 20. It isn't likely that you'll tolerate anything that inhibits your mobility and independence. Loose chitchat poses a distraction.

♉ Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You'll be more self-assured at the onset of an undertaking than you will be as matters progress.

♊ Gemini | May 22 - June 20. It's OK if your instincts urge you to take on more than is expected of you, as long as you don't step on anyone's toes in the process.

♋ Cancer | June 21 - July 22. The possibilities for you achieving all of your objectives today look to be pretty good, as long as you make a game plan first.

♌ Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. The secret to achieving what you want is to not put any limitations on your thinking. You need to use the scope of your smarts.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. The perceptions of some of your associates might be keen. Just because you fail to see as they do, don't belittle their hunches.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Someone you like might require extra compassion. Don't try to reach this person through reason.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. One of the worst things you can do at this point is goof off. If you fail your responsibilities, a hard rain is going to fall.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. There are times when it is wise to allow your heart to rule your head, and this might be one of them. Go out of your way to be nice.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. This can be a very productive day if you dedicate yourself to your undertakings.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. If you go out gallivanting, leave word as to how you can be reached. Someone is going to be very anxious to get in touch with you.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. When dickering over a commercial matter, you should be firm about your terms.

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Sudoku: Easy and hard

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			5			9		7
6				4	3			
2				3	7			
5	6						3	1
			4	1				9
			1	7				3
1		2			8			
	3	7					9	4

	8		2	1	3			
3				4		6	1	
1		4		5	7			
	7							
8		2				1		5
							9	
			5	8		3		6
	6	8		7				2
			9	6	4		8	

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

We all depend on kindness of strangers

Thursday morning, I boarded the train like every other day. What threw me off was passing out and an entirely unexpected seizure. I want to take the opportunity to thank those who helped a stranger passed out on the floor of the train rather than simply step over him, including the physician who was kind enough to wait with me until more help came and I was taken to the hospital. Some days humanity makes you proud.

SHAWN FARRELL, VIA E-MAIL

Bad cop, no ice cream

Re: "The cold facts on an urban menace" (Metro, April 4) Edward Kowalski doesn't like the sound of ice-cream trucks. Ok, that's a reason to try to get them regulated and to get existing ordinances enforced. But doing it so the city can make money off of fines? No. That's not an acceptable reason. Using enforcement to make money is corruption.

DAN WYLIE-SEARS, VIA E-MAIL

Driver puts bad spin on cycling

Re: "There's only room on the road for one" (Metro, April 5-7) Why can't drivers understand that bikes are part of traffic? How is sharing the road "inherently dangerous"? When you get behind the wheel of your car, you are under a legal obligation to pay attention and drive carefully. Being in a car does not give you superior rights to the road. I ride my bike safely on the streets and have had very few problems.

JOE MANTON, VIA E-MAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them a brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Crossword

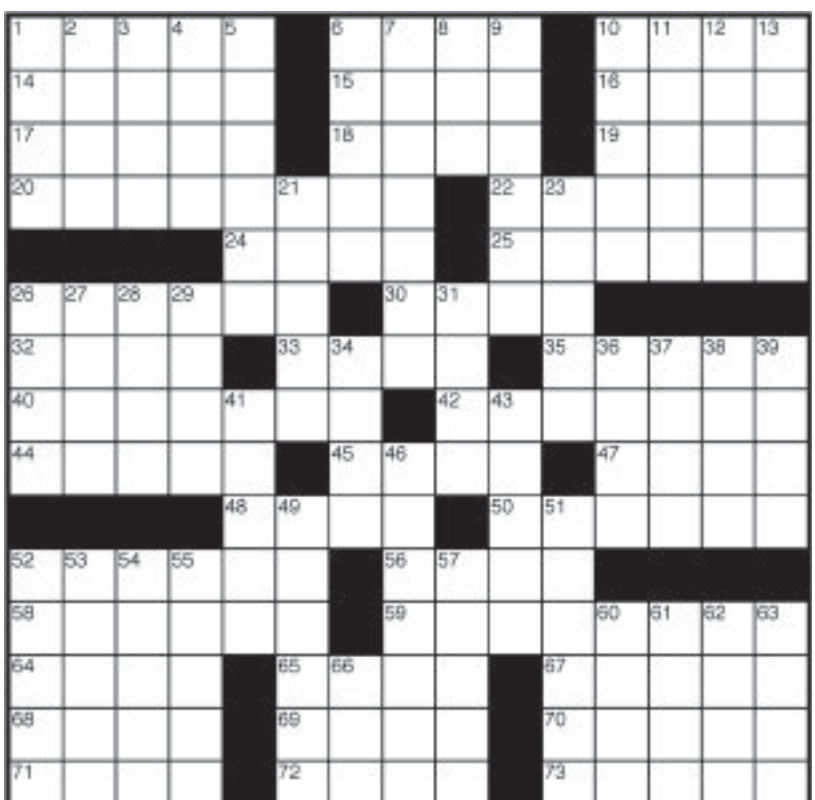
Across

1 Emperor after Nero
6 Bad air
10 Trig or calculus
14 Euclidean statement
15 Drifter
16 Throb
17 Ms. Witherspoon
18 Give off
19 Turkish coin
20 North Atlantic crustacean (2 wds.)
22 Chillier
24 Vindictive goddess
25 Whispered loudly
26 Showy shrub
30 Go over rapidly
32 Artemis' mother
33 Honey
35 Brick bakers
40 Pugilist Jack --
42 Crocodile Dundee et al.
44 Height, to a cager
45 Frisk about
47 Coup d'--
48 Mars, to Plato
50 Iron alloys
52 Moonshot mission
56 Urgent request
58 Gross out
59 Pensioners
64 Two-piece cookie
65 On a voyage
67 Triton's trumpet
68 Dawn, to a poet
69 Tops and trains
70 Energy source
71 LL.D. holder
72 Besides
73 Gush forth

Down

1 Duds
2 Ice skater's leap
3 In— of
4 Speaker brand
5 "Cocoon" star
6 Prune
7 Kenya port
8 Teahouse attire
9 Gleeful shout
10 Shopping venues
11 Etching fluids
12 A crowd?
13 Eavesdropped
21 "The Cloister and the Hearth" author
23 Barnyard sounds
26 Swit co-star
27 Zorro's marks
28 S&L conveniences
29 Go at an easy gait
31 Hit the books
34 Bronte's Jane —
36 Uh-huh (2 wds.)
37 Lo-cal
38 "Hud" Oscar winner
39 Former JFK arrivals
41 Play for time
43 Capsize
46 Fish hawks
49 Spin around
51 Meditative martial art (2 wds.)
52 Good smell
53 Campaigner Ross —
54 Apparent
55 Batty
57 Rental agreement
60 Orbison and Rogers
61 Wraps up
62 Beige
63 Pump or flat
66 Our sun

Weekend's answer



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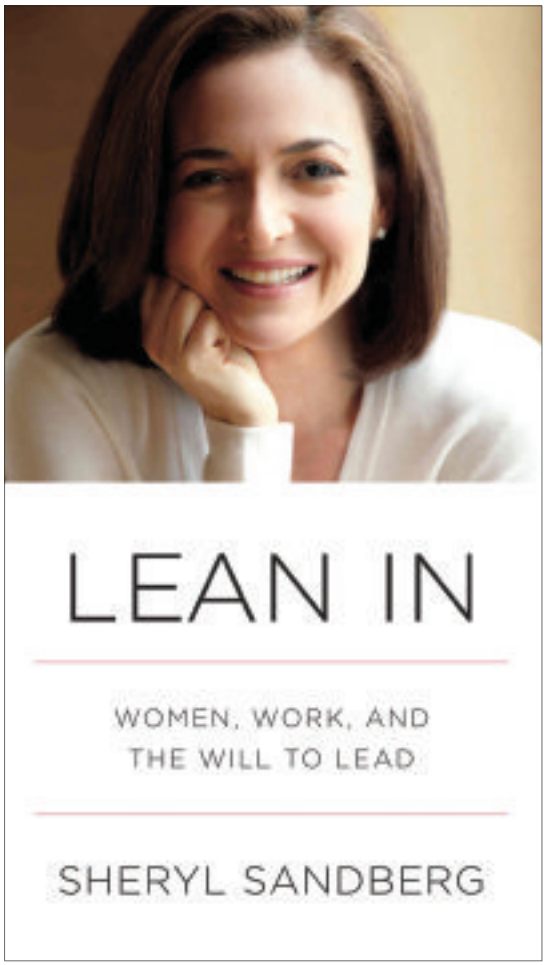
Willing to lead

Careers. Four NYC businesswomen speak out about Sheryl Sandberg's best-seller.

Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg's new book, "Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead," has topped both the New York Times and Amazon best-seller lists for weeks. In it, she argues that women hold few leadership roles in part because of their own internalized fear and doubt. She urges women to "lean in": Accept responsibilities without hesitating, promote themselves and not "leave before you leave," her catchphrase for bowing out to have kids long before pregnancy. Critics deemed the elite and fortunate Sandberg an unfit mouthpiece for all women; others argue that she doesn't intend to be. A more specific response follows, as some of the city's most successful working women weigh in.

JANE BORDEN
letters@metro.us



1 The advice

Lebenthal: "Think of your goal as a destination on a map: Without knowing where you are going, it will be impossible to get there."

A. White: "At times I have 'leaned out,' choosing family over work. I skipped traveling to an important internal meeting last fall to go to my son's first day of kindergarten. ... Working mothers face these trade-offs all the time, and they can be extremely difficult."

2 The experience

DeCesare: "While I was on maternity leave, my colleague was promoted. I asked why I was not even called about the position, and the response was, 'Well, you just had twins.' I realized I had to have a conversation about my goals. I let him know I did want to apply for the job, and that being a mother made me a smarter and more dedicated worker. This changed the way the company handled women in the workplace. Also, I got the job."

3 The reaction

Tocci: "There have been thousands of years of instruction about being "lady-like" and absolutely no guidance on being in charge. Now that women can be the person in charge, they should be conscious of moving toward that goal and not afraid of the opportunity."

PLUS

The panel

Hilary DeCesare
CEO and co-founder of Everloop.com

Alexandra Lebenthal
CEO of Lebenthal & Co.

Alison Tocci
President, City Parks Foundation

Anna White
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SPORTS

Pair of aces

Yanks, CC bounce back

All the Yankees needed to break out of their slumber was to face the best pitcher in the AL. New York beat up on the Tigers' Justin Verlander in a 7-0 win in Detroit yesterday. They also got a strong performance from CC Sabathia, who pitched seven shutout innings for his first win. Jayson Nix hit a two-run homer off Verlander in the second inning.

Byrd brained: Mets walk-off with series win

MLB. Marlon Byrd hit a walk-off down the line to beat the Marlins yesterday.

Journeyman Marlon Byrd was asked how we felt immediately following yesterday's walk-off win.

"Feels great. Feels great, man," Byrd said, minutes after his two-run single in the bottom of the ninth gave the Mets a 4-3 come-from-behind win over the Marlins at Citi Field.

With the win, the Mets ended the six-game, season-opening homestand with a 4-2 record.

"I think 4-2 is a pretty good start," Ike Davis said. "You want to win series at home."

Byrd slapped a 1-0 sinker from Steve Cishek up the third base line to plate Ruben Tejada and Kirk Nieuwenhuis with the game-tying and game-winning runs before being mobbed by his teammates.

Marlon Byrd / GETTY IMAGES

Byrd's game-winner was his only hit in three at-bats. He came into the game in the fifth inning as part of a double switch when starter Aaron Laffey was pulled.

"Nice to come through," Byrd said. "This is the first big one of many."

Byrd played winter ball in Mexico in an attempt to rebuild his career, and was signed by the Mets to a minor-league deal in February. Byrd said his role is to be a "veteran presence" and help the team's young outfield of Nieuwenhuis, Mike Baxter and Lucas Duda.

"[It's] got to be amazing for him. Stuff like that changes your life," Davis said of Byrd. "He's fun to be around. He's got a youthful thing about him. Good energy."

DENIS GORMAN
sports@metro.us

Anthony, Knicks keep streak alive in OKC

The Knicks took their 11-game win streak in Oklahoma City and emerged with it still intact. New York picked up a 125-120 win behind 36 points from Carmelo Anthony. The magic number for the Knicks to clinch the Atlantic Division is now down to one. / NBAE, GETTY IMAGES

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NCAA championship. Louisville, Michigan ready to square off

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It's an unbelievable accomplishment — and one Pitino says he couldn't care less about.

"I haven't thought about it for one second," Pitino said yesterday. "I want to win because I'm a part of this team."

To do so he'll have to beat Michigan, making its first title game appearance since 1993. That year's team, of course, featured the Fab Five. This year's squad features three freshman starters among its stars.

METRO

Michigan freshman Mitch McGary has been the breakout player of the tournament this year. / STREETER LECKA, GETTY IMAGES

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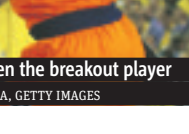

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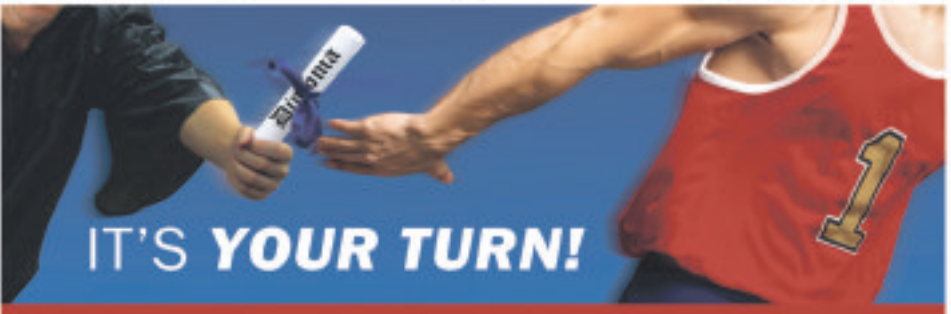

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